

IMpb Impacts on Returns

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To listen to a recording of this presentation please visit:

<https://usps.webex.com/usps/lsr.php?RCID=1024c9aa82c548fe8e3203705c5eda8c>

Note: Slide #20 has been updated in this presentation. The recording does not reflect this change. As discussed during the presentation, the original slide includes a few STCs not related to returns and made reference to the combination of Standard Mail with MRS. These two products cannot be combined.

What is it?

The Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) is the critical bridge between physical packages and digital information required to enable world class service and tracking for our package products.

USPS TRACKING #



9211 7900 0065 8976 0000 59

- **Access to the best prices for package products**
- **End-to-End tracking information at no additional charge for Competitive Products**
- **Routing information to facilitate package processing on automated sorting equipment**
- **Channel-specific Application Identifiers (AI) that associate the barcode to the payment method**
- **3-digit service type codes identify the exact product class and extra service combination.**
- **Eliminates multiple barcodes on a package**
- **Supports 6-digit or 9-digit numeric Mailer IDs (MID)**
- **Required for new products, services and features**

- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making
 - Published February 26, 2013 (78 FR 13006-13007)
- Proposed Rule
 - Published July 11, 2013 (78 FR 41721-41731)
- Final Rule
 - Published December 18, 2013 (78 FR 76548-76560)
- Implementation January 27, 2014
 - Deferred implementation for some products including MRS and BRM

Category	Jan 2014	Jul 2014	Jan 2015
Unique trackable barcode (legacy or IMpb)	98%	99%	99% IMpb Only
Destination delivery address, 11-Digit DPV ZIP Code or ZIP + 4 Code in file	93%	95%	98% Destination Delivery Address or 11- Digit DPV Only
Shipping Services file v1.6 or higher, including required data elements	90%	95%	97%

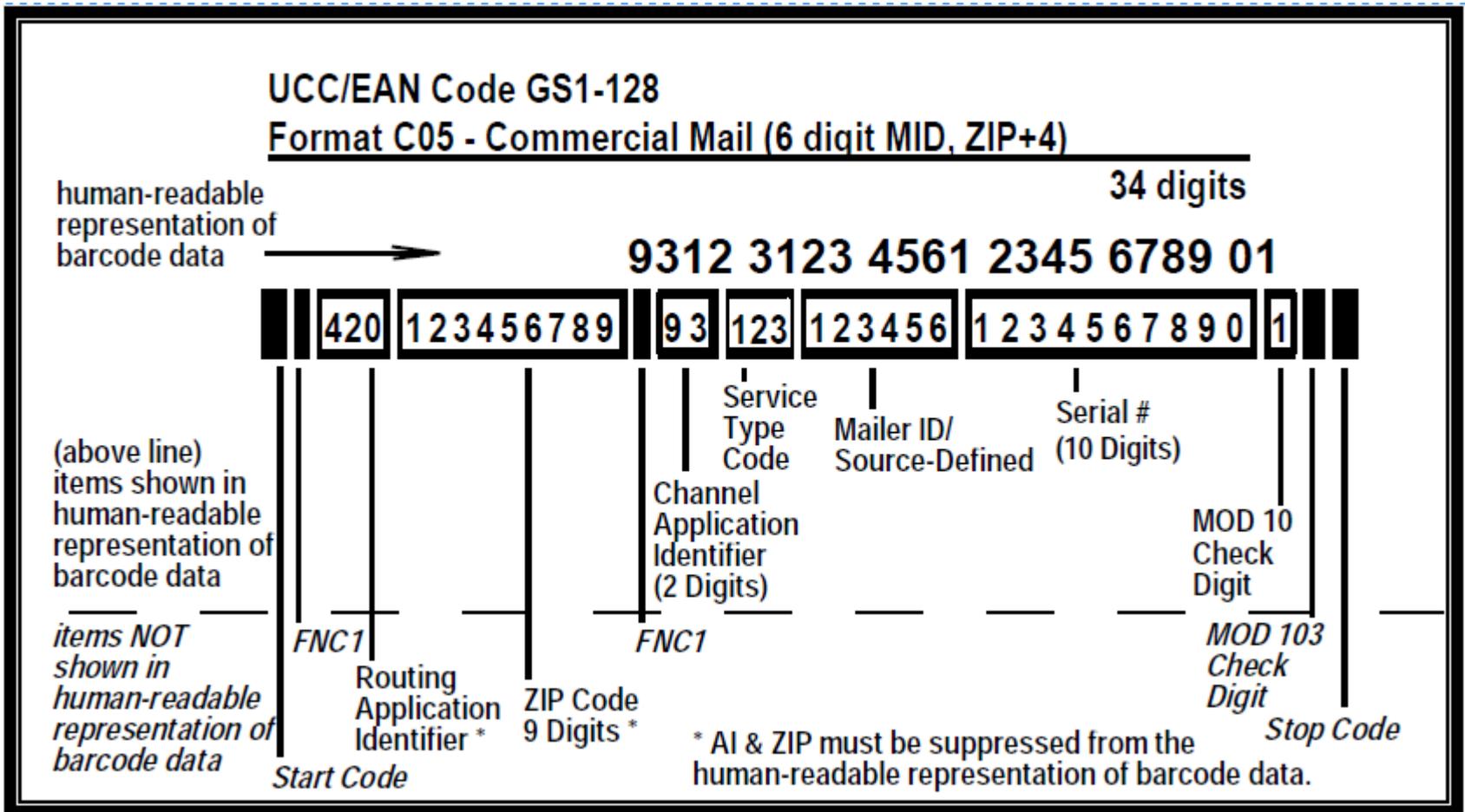
- **Implemented Final Rules January 27, 2014**
- **Per Piece fee for non-compliant pieces - \$0.20**
 - **Competitive Products only**
- **Extending non-compliance fee to Market Dominant products dependent on rule making process and PRC approval**



For MRS Parcels

IMpb Compliance Thresholds	Jul 2014	Jan 2015
Unique trackable barcode IMpb or Legacy	99%	99% IMpb Only
ZIP + 4 Code in Barcode	95%	98%

What's in the barcode?



Commercial Barcode Constructs with ZIP+4 Code Routing

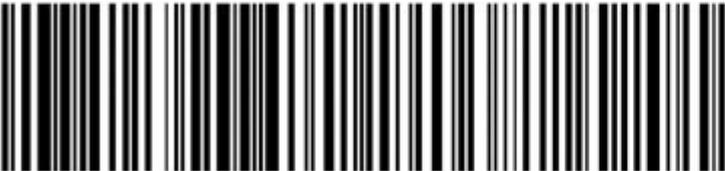
		POSTAL ROUTING CODE		TRACKING NUMBER						
Code	Description	Postal Routing AI	Dest ZIP	Channel AI	STC	MID	Serial Number	Check Digit	PIC Length	Total Barcode Length
C01	Commercial Mail - (Nine-digit Mailer ID, 9-digit ZIP Code)	3	9	2	3	9	7	1	22	34
C05	Commercial Mail - (Six-digit Mailer ID, 9-digit ZIP Code)	3	9	2	3	6	10	1	22	34

415 Returns

420 Parcel Return Service

455 Returns Service

980 Merchandise Return

JOHN DOE 1258 RETURN LN BETHESDA MD 20817	NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES
POSTAGE DUE COMPUTED BY ACCEPTANCE POST OFFICE	
POSTAGE _____ SPECIAL HANDLING FEE (IF ANY) _____ PICKUP DEMAND FEE (IF ANY) _____ TOTAL POSTAGE AND FEES DUE _____	
MERCHANDISE RETURN LABEL PERMIT NO. 1 ABC CO. CONESTOGA PA 17516 1234 MAIN ST	
USPS TRACKING #	POSTAGE DUE UNIT US POSTAL SERVICE PO BOX 9998 CONESTOGA PA 17516
	
9240 2912 3456 7803 0249 00	

- Use of an IMpb on MRS required, transitional period until July 27, 2014
- Use of BRM for parcels, transitional period until January 25, 2015

Returns Compliance Factors:

- Unique IMpb
 - 180 days without repeat
- Use of a concatenated IMpb construct including the ZIP+4
- Use of the correct STC
- Shipping Services File will generally not be required

Returns

Products Requiring 100% Compliance

Return products using IMpb for payment purposes are not subject to the threshold for use of a unique IMpb. These products must be at 100% compliance:

- Parcel Return Service*
- Priority Mail Return Service (SBP)
- First-Class Package Return Service (SBP)
- Ground Return Service (SBP)
- PRS-Full Network (SBP)

Returns:

List of Competitive Products:

DOMESTIC PRODUCTS

- Priority Mail Express (non USPSCA)
- Priority Mail
- Parcel Select
- Parcel Return Service
- First-Class Package Service
- Standard Post

Returns

Products subject the \$0.20 non-compliance fee:

- MRS-Priority Mail
- MRS-First-Class Package Services
- MRS-Standard Post
- Priority Mail Return Service (SBP)
- First-Class Package Return Service (SBP)
- Ground Return Service (SBP)
- Parcel Return Service
- PRS-Full Network (SBP)
- Bulk PRS-Parcel Select Lightweight

Assessment methodology in progress

Returns

Products not assessed a noncompliance fee at this time:

- MRS-First-Class Mail parcels
- MRS-Bound Printed Mail
- MRS-Media Mail
- MRS-Library Mail
- BPRS-Standard Mail parcels

Returns

MRS IMpb-compliant label printing options:

- Click-N-Ship for business
- Web Tools API for electronic MRS
- USPS Merchant Returns Label Tool
- Privately Printed Labels

Hazardous Materials: Required Indicators in the SSF:

All parcels, containing material of any mailable hazard class, requiring special markings, quantity limitations or packaging as defined in DMM 601.10 and Pub 52. Including, but limited to:

- Air or Ground Transportation, all hazard classes
- ORM-D materials
- Consumer Commodity & mailable limited commodity materials
- Authorized mailable class 1 materials
- Class 6 nonregulated materials & exempt human specimens
- SP-9275 authorized mailings
- Primary and Secondary (lithium alloy) batteries
- Dry Ice

Merchandise Returns Service and other returns containing hazardous materials will require use of specific IMpb STCs and/or Extra Services Codes

- Specific 3-digit Service Type Code identifies mail class and hazardous material content
- Extra and Additional Service Type Codes

STC	PRODUCT CLASS	DESCRIPTION	BANNER TEXT	EXTRA SERVICE CODES		
854	PM	Priority Mail Merchandise Return: USPS Tracking, Hazardous Material	USPS TRACKING #	920	980	857
855	PM	Priority Mail Merchandise Return: Signature Confirmation, Hazardous Material	USPS SIGNATURE TRACKING #	921	980	857
856	PS	Parcel Select Merchandise Return: Signature Confirmation, Hazardous Material	USPS SIGNATURE TRACKING #	921	980	857
857	PS	Parcel Select Merchandise Return: USPS Tracking and Hazardous Material	USPS TRACKING #	920	980	857
858	SA	Standard Post Merchandise Return: Signature Confirmation, Hazardous Material	USPS SIGNATURE TRACKING #	921	980	857
859	SA	Standard Post Merchandise Return: USPS Tracking and Hazardous Material	USPS TRACKING #	920	980	857

Hazardous Materials: What's New?

- ORM-D Category & markings extended to January 1, 2021
- DMM 601.8 – 601.12 will be moved to Pub. 52.

<https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=intellmailpackage>



The screenshot shows the USPS RIBBS website page for Intelligent Mail Package Barcode. The page has a blue header with navigation links: Home, Site Index A-Z, and Site Index by Topic. The main heading is "Intelligent Mail® Package Barcode" in large blue font with a red underline. To the right of the heading are links for "Printable View" and "RSS". A left sidebar contains a menu of "Intelligent Mail® Services" including Latest News, Getting Started, Business, Customer Gateway, Barcode, Decoder/Encoder, Barcode for Mailpieces, Education, Guides & Specs, IMb Tracing®, IMb Planning Tool, Mailer ID, OneCode™ Services, OneCode Solution™, and Package Barcode. The main content area features two sections: "Intelligent Mail Package Barcode" and "Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Specification". The "Intelligent Mail Package Barcode" section contains a paragraph describing the IMpb and its benefits. The "Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Specification" section contains a paragraph describing the specification document. To the right of the main content is a light blue box titled "Important Links" containing several hyperlinks: IMpb FAQs, Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Specification, Publication 199: Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (Impb) Implementation Guide, Publication 199: Bulk Proof of Delivery (BPOD) Supplement, PTR Error/Warning Messages, Updated List: Service Type Codes for IMpb, Parcel Labeling Guide, IMpb Certified Solutions Providers, Electronic Verification System (eVS®), and Quick Guide to eVS.

Home Site Index A-Z Site Index by Topic

Intelligent Mail® Package Barcode

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Intelligent Mail® Services

- Latest News
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- Customer Gateway
- Barcode
- Decoder/Encoder
- Barcode for Mailpieces
- Education
- Guides & Specs
- IMb Tracing®
- IMb Planning Tool
- Mailer ID
- OneCode™ Services
- OneCode Solution™
- Package Barcode

Intelligent Mail Package Barcode

This page contains information about the Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) the Postal Service is proposing for package products and Confirmation Services. The IMpb will provide piece-level data to enable the Postal Service to increase efficiency, add value to its package product line, and enhance its package tracking capabilities.

Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Specification

This document provides specification for generating and printing the USPS Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb). Additionally, this specification governs the production of "Extra Services" barcodes.

Important Links

- [IMpb FAQs](#)
- [Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Specification](#)
- [Publication 199: Intelligent Mail Package Barcode \(Impb\) Implementation Guide](#)
- [Publication 199: Bulk Proof of Delivery \(BPOD\) Supplement](#)
- [PTR Error/Warning Messages](#)
- [Updated List: Service Type Codes for IMpb](#)
- [Parcel Labeling Guide](#)
- [IMpb Certified Solutions Providers](#)
- [Electronic Verification System \(eVS®\)](#)
- [Quick Guide to eVS](#)